

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the legend "Related Art" has been added.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5 and 8.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 have been amended, and claims 5-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application. Thus, claims 1-4 and 8-10 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed November 1, 2006, the drawings were objected to for failing to include a legend such as "Prior Art." It is noted that nowhere in the specification is it disclosed or admitted that Fig. 1 illustrates "Prior Art." Thus, Fig. 1 has been amended to include the legend "Related Art," as Fig. 1 and the description thereof are included preliminary to the detailed description of the invention, only. If any additional amendment is necessary to overcome the objection, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

In the outstanding Office Action, it was noted that pages 2-4 and 6 of the specification were scanned erroneously into the IFW by the Office, and the Examiner has required that copies of pages 2-4 and 6 of the specification be re-submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action. Copies of pages 2-4 and 6 of the specification as filed on July 25, 2003, are re-submitted herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,009,644 to Sanchez et al. (hereinafter, "Sanchez"). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanchez in view of the Applicants' alleged Admitted Prior Art, (hereinafter, "alleged AAPA"). It is noted that claims 5-7 have been canceled, and claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 have been amended. To the extent that the rejections apply to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejections, as follows.

Merely to facilitate allowance of the instant invention, the Applicants have amended claims 3 and 8 to be in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims, and amended claims 1 and 9 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Thus, claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance. As claims 1, 3 and 9 are allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 4 and 10, which depend from claims 1, 3 and 9, respectively, are likewise allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 3 and 9.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.


Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to

charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this
communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number
100353-00171.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Sheet Fig. 1
Copy of pages 2-4 and 6 of the Specification as filed July 25, 2003